

Message Text

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44

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EA-07 ISO-00 INT-05 AID-05 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02

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R 051415Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1461
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN INV JA GV

SUBJECT: JAPANESE INTEREST IN MIFERGUI NIMBA

REF: A. TOKYO 17607 B) CONAKRY 1905

1. KAISER STEEL MANAGEMENT HAS MADE DECISION TO RECOMMEND KAISER STEEL EQUITY PARTICIPATION IN MIFERGUI-NIMBA TO KAISER BOARD OF DIRECTORS. BOARD WILL ACT ON MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATION FEB 26. DELEGATION FROM MIFERGUI NIMBA INCLUDING DIRECTOR GENERAL PENSA HAS BEEN INVITED TO OAKLAND JANUARY 17-24.

2. KAISER HAS BEEN AUTHORIZED BY MIFERGUI TO ACT AS AGENT IN APPROACHING OTHER POTENTIAL FOREIGN EQUITY PARTICIPANTS. KAISER REQUESTED TO CONSIDER MITSUBISHI INTERNATIONAL IN ITS APPROACH. HOWEVER GOAL OF MIFERGUI IS TO SEEK NIPPON STEEL PARTICIPATION.

3. MIFERGUI BELIEVES NICHIMEN IN EFFORT TO MAINTAIN PARAMOUNT JAPANESE POSITION COULD HARM EFFORTS TO INCLUDE MAJOR JAPANESE STEEL FIRM IN CONSORTIUM. NICHIMEN IN DISCUSSION WITH OTHER POTENTIAL STEEL FIRMS SEEMS TO BE PRESENTING VIEWPOINT

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THAT FURTHER JAPANESE PARTICIPATION IN MIFERGUI SHOULD BE

ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH JAPAN MIFERGUI LTD. LOCAL NICHIMEN REP INFORMED EMBOFF THAT SUCH FIRMS HAVE MORAL OBLIGATION TO RESPECT NICHIMEN POSITION. MIFERGUI CONCERNED SUCH ATTITUDE MAY COMPLICATE KAISER APPROACH TO JAPANESE STEEL PRODUCERS.

4. GUINEAN AMBASSADOR TOKYO BELIEVES MITSUBISHI INTERNATIONAL COULD PLAY ROLE IN RECRUITING MAJOR JAPANESE STEEL FIRM. MIFERGUI NOT INTERESTED IN MITSUBISHI MINING DUE TO SMALL SIZE OF FIRM BUT BELIEVES MISUBISHI INTERNATIONAL COULD BE USED TO END RUN NICHIMEN IN RECRUITING JAPANESE STEEL PARTNERS.

5. MIFERGUI MANAGEMENT HAS REQUESTED EMBASSY ASSISTANCE IN CLARIFYING POTENTIAL JAPANESE EQUITY PARTICIPATION IN PROJECT. RECOGNIZING CONNECTIONS BETWEEN JAPANESE TRADING AND STEEL FIRMS, IF EMBASSY TOKYO FEELS SUCH AN APPROACH APPROPRIATE EMBASSY CONAKRY BELIEVES A DISCREET DISCUSSION WITH NIPPON STEEL REPS IS DESIRABLE AT THIS POINT. EMBASSY MAY DRAW ON INFORMATION CONCERNING STATUS POTENTIAL KAISER PARTICIPATION BY WAY OF BRIEFING. MIFERGUI HAS AUTHORIZED KAISER TO APPROACH OTHER POTENTIAL FOREIGN EQUITY PARTICIPANTS. SHOULD NIPPON STEEL BE INTERESTED THEY MAY WISH TO APPROACH KAISER DIRECTLY. ALSO BELIEVE IT WOULD BE WORTHWHILE TO CALL ON GOG AMBASSADOR TOKYO MAMADI LAMINE CONDI CONCERNING HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH JAPANESE FIRMS PARTICULARLY MITSUBISHI. BY WAY OF BACKGROUND YOU MAY EXPLAIN EMBASSY CONAKRY IN TOUCH WITH JAPANESE FIRMS NIPPON KOEI AND NICHIMEN AND INTERESTED IN COORDINATING POTENTIAL JAPANESE AND US PARTICIPATION IN MIFERGUI PROJECT.

6. REQUEST DEPT.'S CONCURRENCE ABOVE APPROACH.
MACDONALD

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